

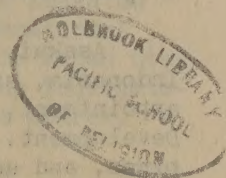
## JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF JAPAN  
 Editorial Committee Helen Post- Stanley Manierre- Akiko Yamaguchi

No. 348 - July 10, 1969

IN THIS ISSUE:

EACC Consultation to Embrace Range of Theological Positions  
 Koichiro Asakai is Named Japan Chairman of Development Conference  
 Yasukuni Bill Goes to Diet  
 Lutheran Doctor and Wife to Serve in Nigeria  
 Buma to Attend Post-Vietnam Planning Conference  
 Lutheran Students See Signs of Renewal  
 AVACO Sponsors Broadcasters' Seminar  
 Japan Baptist Convention Conference Opens July 22  
 "Human Life" is Theme of Christian Medical Meeting  
 Bishop Yanaka of Holy Brethren Leads Holy Land Tour  
 NCC Visitation Evangelism Committee Holds Last Meeting  
 Immigration Bill Notes  
 Headline-Making Events



EACC CONSULTATION TO EMBRACE RANGE OF THEOLOGICAL POSITIONS

Rev. Masanao Fujita, pastor, Hakusan Church (Tokyo) of the United Church of Christ in Japan, has been named chairman of the local arrangements committee for a Consultation of Asian Christians on "Judgment and Hope in the Gospel," to be held at Tozanso, Gotemba, July 8-12, 1970, according to an announcement by Dr. Kosuke Koyama, conference chairman.

Described as a consultation of "conservative evangelicals" and "other Christians" within the East Asia Christian Conference, the purpose, according to Conference Secretary Emerito P. Nacpil, Filipino theologian, is "to use the various theological positions within the church in Asia to reach a deeper understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with particular reference to Judgment and Hope."

Since 1961, the EACC has taken increased notice of the wide gulf, both within EACC member churches and between member churches, between two groups of Christians, identified, for want of more accurate designations, as "conservative evangelicals" and "other Christians."

At the Consultation, the "Judgment and Hope" theme will be approached through papers and study by three working groups: 1. Judgment in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; 2. Hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; 3. The Church as a Sign of Judgment and Hope.

In both the Judgment and Hope sub-themes, particular attention will be given to evangelism, social obedience, and human destiny and the end, which are considered the three major areas in which there is marked difference of opinion. Each section's assignment will deal with the papers and questions referred to it, discover areas of agreement and disagreement, record various positions and indicate what should be studied further and where cooperative work can be undertaken.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES JAPAN ¥700 FOREIGN-SEA MAIL \$2.50 AIR MAIL \$4.00  
 Cable Code: JAPACONCIL, Address: Christian Center 4-5-1 Ginza Chuo-ku, Tokyo Japan



Dr. Kosuke Koyama is a pastor of The United Church of Christ in Japan who served for seven years at the Thailand Theological Seminary in Thailand and, since June, 1968, has been executive director of the Association of Theological Schools in South East Asia, in Singapore.

#### KOICHIRO ASAKAI IS NAMED JAPAN CHAIRMAN OF DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Koichiro Asakai, veteran diplomat, presently serving as chief delegate at the Geneva Disarmament Conference, has been named Japan chairman of the Ecumenical Asian Conference on Development, to be held in Japan in July, 1970 (see JCAN June 10), Dr. In Ha Lee, executive secretary of the Conference, announced Monday, July 8.

Asakai, a Roman Catholic layman, will serve with General T. B. Simatupang, Indonesia, and Archbishop Angelo I. Fernandes, of India. Asakai accepted the appointment, saying that he personally had a very great interest in the issue of Development. Asakai has served as minister to England, ambassador to the Philippines, and ambassador to the United States. He has represented Japan at a number of international economic conferences, on both a regional and United Nations level.

#### YASUKUNI BILL GOES TO DIET

On June 30 the long-pending Yasukuni Shrine bill moved into the Diet. The bill, which would put the traditionally Shinto-related memorial to the dead of former wars under government administration, has been opposed by Christians and an ever-widening circle of other persons concerned with it as a threat to freedom of belief, separation of religion and state and Japan's peace stance.

While the bill is still in the hands of the agenda committee, its opponents are quickening the tempo of their activities:

- . Representatives of the United Church of Christ in Japan, the Baptist Convention and Presbyterian and Reformed Churches called on members of the agenda committee with resolutions and petitions.
- . On July 1, 130 persons "sat" in front of the Prime Minister's residence for several hours.
- . A thousand persons, wearing sandwich boards or carrying posters calling attention to the bill, solicited signatures on petitions to defeat the bill.
- . Throughout Japan, groups of from 5 to as many as 30 persons have been participating in hunger strikes to dramatize the seriousness of the bill.
- . Tokyo Union Theological Seminary professors organized a special committee to study what action the Seminary should take.
- . On July 13, the Union of New Religions Organizations will conduct a nationwide effort to get one million signatures on that day alone.
- . On July 20, a mass meeting will be held at the Hibiya Outdoor Music Hall.
- . July 26 the bill will be discussed by a symposium of scholars in the fields of politics, law and education.

According to Rev. Masahiro Tomura, secretary of the Liaison Committee to Oppose the Yasukuni Shrine Bill, religious organizations opposed to the bill have seven million adherents, in comparison with the two million members of the War Bereaved Families Association--the main lobby for the bill.

On July 6, Asahi Shimbun quoted Liberal Democratic Party Secretary Tanaka as saying that, while he personally supported the bill, he did not think it should be passed if doing so were to split the country, as is suggested by the vigor and nature of the opposition.



## LUTHERAN DOCTOR AND WIFE TO SERVE IN NIGERIA

A young medical couple, Dr. Minoru Tsuchida, 30, and Yoko, 22, his nurse-wife, left Japan for Nigeria by air July 7 to serve as the Japan Lutheran Church's first medical missionaries to Africa.

Pricked by the fact that, while in Japan there is one doctor for each 800 people, there are other places in the world where the ratio is only one doctor for 5,000 or even 50,000 people, the Japan Lutheran Church has been laying plans, for the past four years, to send a doctor abroad. The Tsuchidas will serve a one-year stint at the International Red Cross Hospital in Nigeria, one of the countries where the ratio of doctors is very low and the situation is further complicated by the continuing Nigeria-Biafra warfare.

Dr. Tsuchida, who was born in Manchuria and graduated from the Hokkaido University School of Medicine, was associated with St. Luke's International Hospital before going to Laos for a two-year term as a member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. For the past year he has been with the Tsukigata-machi Hospital, Sapporo. Dr. Tsuchida is a member of the Ikebukuro Church.

## BUMA TO ATTEND POST-VIETNAM PLANNING CONFERENCE

Rev. Kentaro Buma, director, NCC Department of Service (Hoshi-Jigyobu) was named delegate to the Coordinating Conference for Reconstruction in Vietnam by the NCC Executive Committee at its June 8 meeting. Details of the conference, to be held in Singapore October 7-11 were discussed in detail when Nguyen-Tang Canh of the World Council of Churches Department of Inter-church Aid met with leaders of NCC, The United Church of Christ, the Korean Christian Church in Japan and the Christian Medical Association during his visit to Japan in June.

At that meeting, Japanese participants expressed the strong desire that a Catholic and a Buddhist observer from Japan be included in the Singapore Conference so that all the forces of Japan might contribute to reconstruction in Vietnam.

## LUTHERAN STUDENTS SEE SIGNS OF RENEWAL

Japan Lutheran Theological College graduation candidates who boycotted ministerial examinations in February, feeling now that the purpose of their movement for renewal is underway, have applied to take the ministerial examinations. At its June meeting, the Executive Committee of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church agreed to give the examinations to them in the fall.

In February, nine students had refused to take the examinations taken by six of their classmates and had issued a written statement criticizing the Seminary and the Church. As part of their graduation theses they produced a special paper on the history of the Lutheran church in Japan which accented the relation between secular history and church history and declared that the church was "opportunistic" during World War II military rule.

Citing the "challenge of present society to the church and the critical situation prevailing today," the students called for revision of the present church constitution and formulation of a new confessional expression of faith. They also urged an effort to establish deeper mutual trust and rapport between the church and the theological institution.

President Dr. Chitose Kishi and seven professors released a statement in which they said they "agreed with the basic intention of the students' declaration." Dr. Kishi had earlier in the year told the Japan Lutheran Committee for Cooperative Mission, "We are thankful that most of our students have not forgotten even in the midst of this atmosphere [of student unrest] that they are Christian men preparing for the ministry of the church...there have been many good results coming out of these student movements."



# BROADCASTERS COMPARE NOTES ON REACHING LISTENER AUDIENCES

"Like cold sake and parents' advice, which have a delayed reaction, Christian broadcasts should not try to force an immediate response from listeners but should look toward the cumulative effect of a series of good impressions," Essayist Hideo Shibusawa told Japanese Christian broadcasters recently.

Mr. Shibusawa spoke at the 10th interdenominational Seminar on Broadcasting held in Tokyo July 1-2, under the sponsorship of AVACO, the Audio-Visual Aids Commission of the National Christian Council.

Expressing a non-Christian's impression of Christian radio and TV programs, Mr. Shibusawa said that of course it is necessary to appeal to listeners' feelings if a program is to be effective. But, he said, two approaches to this are possible: one, aimed at bringing about a person's immediate decision to become a Christian; the other, aimed at creating in the listener's mind favorable impressions of Christianity that will have their full effect later in his life. Mr. Shibusawa said he himself favored the long-range approach. "Most of the listeners are not too 'thirsty' for Christianity," he said.

Following Mr. Shibusawa's lecture, broadcasters auditioned tapes of various Christian-content programs. Most were built on the traditional sermon-centered format, although the style and quality of the preaching differed noticeably. Producers found listening to programs of other denominations highly instructive.

Panelists discussing cooperative approaches to broadcasting agreed that cooperation is limited because of differences in denominational situations. (Ten groups, out of 37 groups invited, sent representatives to the Seminar.) The panelists listed as the chief questions to be faced:

1. Is it possible to program on the basis of a broad Christian approach?
2. How should each church meet the problem of the denominational us an ecumenical approach?
3. At what point of interest and appeal should the broadcaster seek to build the "bridge" between the general public and the church?
4. How can the various broadcasting bodies cooperate in the exchange of information, etc.?

The following broadcasters, by sponsoring group and major programs, took part:

Evangelical Lutheran Church: Iesuto Tomoni Ayumu Jikan (An Hour with Jesus)  
Horemco: Asueno Inori (Prayer for Tomorrow); Asano Seisho (Bible Reading in the Morning)

Japan Lutheran Hour: Kono Hito wo Miyo (Behold The Man), Yoru no Meikyoku (Classical Music for Night Listening); Kokoro ni Hikari wo (A Light for the Heart)

Japan Mission Broadcasting Evangelism: Yorokobi no Koe (Voice of Joy)  
Kyokuto Hosu (Far East Broadcasting)

Nishi Nihon Shinsei Kan: Shinsei Time

Roman Catholic Church: Kokoro no Tomoshibi (Light of the Heart)

Seventh Day Adventist: Family Hour; Yogen no Koe (Voice of Prophecy)  
Hikari to Tomoni (With a Light)

United Church of Christ in Japan, Joint Broadcasting Committee: Kokoro no Tomo (A Friend of the Heart)

Yoake Jimusho: Yoake no Seisho (Bible Reading at Daybreak)



JAPAN BAPTIST CONVENTION CONFERENCE OPENS JULY 22

Celebrating its 80th anniversary, the Japan Baptist Convention will hold its annual conference at Amagisanso July 22-25 under the banner "Cooperation in Evangelism". The business of the 240 delegates will include plans for hosting the Baptist World Congress, to be held in Tokyo, July 1970. An estimated 8,000 overseas guests are expected.

"HUMAN LIFE" IS THEME OF CHRISTIAN MEDICAL MEETING

Christian doctors, and nurses, and their families, will meet from July 25-27 at Tozanso, Gotemba, in the 22nd annual conference of the Japan Christian Medical Association. Discussion will focus on the problem of "human life" in modern society. Following the full conference there will be a meeting of medical student members and associates.

BISHOP YANAKA OF HOLY BRETHREN LEADS HOLY LAND TOUR

On Saturday, July 5, 22 Japanese ministers and laymen began a 25-day tour of the Bible lands. Tour leader is Bishop Hiromi Yanaka of the Seikyo Dan (Christian Holy Convention) and president of the Bible Seminary. Rev. Kenny Joseph, Reap Center, is accompanying the group as interpreter. The itinerary includes meeting the Bishop of the 5 million-member Coptic Church in Cairo, fellowship and preaching in conjunction with the Bibleland Research Club, and a tour of Greece, as well the Holy Lands. The tour was made possible by special arrangements with the United Arab Airlines.

VISITATION EVANGELISM COMMITTEE ENDS AND BEGINS

The Visitation Evangelism Committee of the NCC, organized in 1953, will hold its last meeting on August 19-21 at Amagisanso, Izu, the committee having been dropped from the new NCC structure. Rev. Minoru Okada, Shinjuku Nishi Church of the United Church of Christ in Japan, and other leaders have indicated that they wish to reconstitute themselves as a new independent organization following dissolution of the NCC committee at the August meeting.

Bishop Tsunenori Takase, Japan Episcopal Church, will lead worship at the August meeting. Lecturers will be Rev. Noboru Hara, Komatsugawa Church of the United Church of Christ, Eiichi Seki, chief editor of The Christian, Rev. Uichiro Tateishi, Shinkoiwa Church of the Baptist Convention, Rev. Shimao Nakaji, Ogimachi Church of the United Church of Christ.

The visitation evangelism program was given strong impetus by the visit in 1950 of Harold H. MacConnell, associated with the then-U.S. National Council of Churches. It has been carried on by a faithful remnant of pastors and laymen who cross denominational lines in their devotion to this strategy of evangelism.

BASE OF OPPOSITION TO IMMIGRATION BILL WIDENS

The new immigration bill now being considered by the House of Representatives (JCAN May 25) is drawing increased fire from the Japanese press, international students and, to a lesser extent, from Japanese Christians, as well as from the Korean Christian Church in Japan, which sounded one of the early alerts with regard to it.

Few English materials on this bill have been available but some are now being prepared. Readers who wish copies may write for them to Immigration Bill c/o JCAN.



## HEADLINE-MAKING EVENTS

compiled by Ichiji Yokota

JAPAN-INDIA RELATIONS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE VISIT of Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi to Japan June 23-28. She and Prime Minister Sato agreed to maintain close cooperation at the Geneva Disarmament Committee, which Japan is attending for the first time.

TWO BILLS INCREASING THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE SELF-DEFENSE Forces were passed by the House of Representatives' Cabinet Committee and the House of Representatives in spite of opposition by the opposition parties. The bills now go to the House of Councillors.

THE JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY AND SOHYO, THE TRADITIONALLY JSP-oriented General Council of Trade Unions of Japan, are having it out over the Anti-War Youth League. Sohyo proposes expelling the AYL, but JSP Chairman Narita says the JSP policy is to nurture and strengthen it. The AYL, identified as composed of Trotskyites, is a very progressive group that permits the use of violence and conducts "anti-establishment" activities at their places of work. It was originally established by JSP and Sohyo to counter the JCP-affiliated Minsei faction of Zengakuren, which was then rapidly gaining ground among the nation's students and youth.

PRIME MINISTER SATO FAVORS INCREASED GOVERNMENT AID TO PRIVATE universities, according to a recent speech. He has also announced the assignment of LDP vice-president Kawashima and Education System Council chairman Sakurada to the task of studying and making concrete plans for the establishment of a "model university."

NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN ARMIN H. MEYER ARRIVED JUNE 24. Richard Schneider has been named assistant to Ambassador Meyer with special responsibility for U.S.-Japan negotiations on Okinawa.

FOREIGN MINISTER KIICHI AICHI WILL VISIT MOSCOW IN EARLY SEPTEMBER at the invitation of the Soviet government, extended by Soviet Ambassador Oleg A. Troyanovsky on July 2.

THE BANK OF JAPAN HAS ISSUED A WARNING THAT THE RECENT SHARP increase in foreign investment in Japanese stocks could seriously affect Japan's international balance of payments. The statement says: Foreign investments of late have begun to show the characteristics of "hot money"; any change in economic conditions or in the international money market could result in a large volume of purchases or sales all at one time. A similar warning was given in the report of the government policy committee.